

November 3, 1978

Memo to File:

RE: Consolidated Mine & Milling
Hanksville Operation
Garfield County, Utah
ACT/017/014

This proposed zirconium mining operation was inspected on October 18, 1978 by Jim Smith of the Division and Mr. Dale Whitelock and Mr. Mark Swint of Consolidated Mine & Milling, Orem, Utah. The site is located on a small mesa point in Section 30, T. 34S, R. 11E. A two mile access road exists from another existing road at a cattle guard to the mine site. This road will need some upgrading for ore haulage.

The site to be mined consists of an area approximately 800 feet long and 100 feet wide. The deposit is about 2-4 feet thick under a 3 foot thick sandstone cap. Vegetation is very sparse existing in isolated pockets of shallow sandy soil. Species noted were pinyon pine, juniper, bitterbrush, sagebrush, shadscale, ephedra, yucca, Indian ricegrass, and a scattering of annual forbs.

The operation will entail shooting and ripping the sandstone cap, stockpiling it to the side, removing the ore below, and pushing the overburden material back into the pit created by removing the ore. This will be done in a series of small pits beginning at the farthest point on the mesa and working back towards the mountain. The zirconium deposit outcrops on the west side of the mesa and extends toward the center where it pinches out. The mining operation is expected to last 3 years.

Mr. Whitelock would like to begin as soon as possible and remove a few hundred tons of material for testing purposes. This can be covered by a DOE until the approval process is completed for their mining and reclamation plan.

JWS
JAMES W. SMITH, JR.
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST











